CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first basic input/output system image to replace an existing second basic input/output system image stored in a firmware memory, the first basic input/output system image including a first computer system configuration data section and the second basic input/output system comprising a second computer system configuration data section;

comparing the first computer system configuration data section with the second computer system configuration data section to check for compatibility between the first computer system configuration data section and the second computer configuration data section;

based on the comparison, modifying the first basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of the first basic input/output system image with a portion of the second basic input/output system image; and

writing the modified first basic input/output system image to the firmware memory to replace the second basic input/output system image.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the second basic input/output system image comprises configuration data for a computer system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration data comprises boot options for a computer system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the second basic input/output system image corresponds to a portion of the second basic input/output system image locked from a write operation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises:

storing the first basic input/output system image in a system memory of a computer system.

6.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using a FLASH memory for the firmware memory.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a firmware memory storing an existing basic input/output system image comprising a first configuration data section; and

a processor to:

compare the first configuration data section with a second configuration data section of a replacement basic input/output system image;

based on the comparison, modify [[a]] the replacement basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of the replacement basic input/output system image with a portion of the existing basic input/output system image; and

write the modified replacement basic input/output system image to the firmware memory to replace the existing basic input/output system image.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein the portion of the existing basic input/output system image comprises configuration data for the computer system.

12. (Original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the configuration data comprises boot options for the computer system.

13. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein the portion of the existing basic input/output system image corresponds to a region of the firmware memory locked from writes.

14. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, further comprising:

a system memory,

wherein the processor stores the replacement basic input/output system image in the system memory.

15.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The computer system claim 10, wherein the firmware memory comprises a FLASH memory.

19. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer readable storage medium storing instructions to cause a processor to:

compare a configuration data section of an existing basic input/output system image stored in a firmware memory with a second configuration data section of a replacement basic input/output system image;

based on the comparison, modify [[a]] the replacement basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of the replacement basic input/output system image with a portion of ~~an~~ the existing basic input/output system image stored in a firmware memory; and

write the modified replacement basic input/output system image to the firmware memory to replace the existing basic input/output system image.

20. (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein the portion of the existing basic input/output system image comprises configuration data for a computer system.

21. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the configuration data comprises boot options for a computer system.

22. (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein the portion of the existing basic input/output system image corresponds to a region of the firmware memory locked from writes.

23. (Original) The article of claim 19, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the processor to store the replacement basic input/output system image in a system memory of a computer system.

24.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The article claim 19, wherein the firmware memory comprises a FLASH memory.

28. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a first basic input/output system image to replace an existing second basic input/output system image stored in a firmware memory, the first basic input/output system image including a configuration data section for a computer system;

determining at least one of the size and the location of the configuration data section; and

based on the determination, modifying the first basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of the first basic input/output system image with a portion of the second basic input/output system image; and

writing the modified first basic input/output system image to the firmware memory to replace the second basic input/output system image.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the configuration data section comprises data indicating boot options for a computer system.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the portion of the second basic input/output system image corresponds to a portion of the second basic input/output system image locked from a write operation.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiving comprises:

storing the first basic input/output system image in a system memory of a computer system.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing comprises:

comparing a size of the first computer system configuration data section with a size of the second computer system configuration data section.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing comprises:

comparing a location of the first computer system configuration data section with a location of the second computer system configuration data section.

34. (New) The computer system of claim 10, wherein the processor compares a size of the first configuration data section with a size of the second configuration data section.

35. (New) The computer system of claim 10, wherein the processor compares a location of the first configuration data section with a location of the second configuration data section.

36. (New) The article of claim 19, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the processor to:

compare a size of the first configuration data section with a size of the second configuration data section.

37. (New) The article of claim 19, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the processor to:

compare a location of the first configuration data section with a location of the second configuration data section.